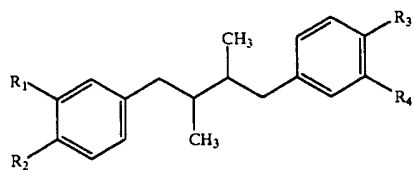


(57)

ABSTRACT

A method for suppressing undesired viral growth in a host which comprises administering to the host an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of HO—, CH₃O— and CH₃(C=O)O—. The method is exemplified by inhibiting Tat transactivation of a lentivirus and in suppressing Herpes simplex virus.